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 UNCLAS PRETORIA 00455 COMBINED SECTION

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY  
 E.O. 12065: N/A  
 TAGS: UTRA, OREP, SF, US  
 SUBJECT: PRESS PIECE ON SENATOR DENTON AND SOVIET  
 - TERRORISM

REFS: (A) PRETORIA 340, (B) PRETORIA 251  
 1. IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA OF  
 STAFFERS ON THE SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
 SECURITY AND TERRORISM, (SEE REFTELS) AIDA PARKER  
 IN THE CITIZEN PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE JANUARY 15 HEAD-  
 LINED: "THE THREAT POSED BY SOVIET TERRORISM--WHY  
 SA SHOULD HELP US" INVESTIGATORS OUTLINING THE  
 BACKGROUND AND VIEWS OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
 SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON. THE ARTICLE ALSO GIVES  
 EVIDENCE OF LINKS BETWEEN THE ANC AND THE SOVIET.  
 FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE.  
 2. QUOTE: JUST ONE WEEK AFTER RONALD REAGAN  
 WAS INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF THE US, SECRETARY-

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OF-STATE ALEXANDER HAIG IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 28, AFFIRMED THAT THE USSR "IS INVOLVED IN CONSCIOUS POLICIES WHICH FOSTER, SUPPORT AND EXPAND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM."

IT WAS A HISTORIC STATEMENT, BEING THE FIRST TIME THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAD EVER OFFICIALLY ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION OF SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. NOW TWO MEMBERS OF THE US SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND TERRORISM, MESSRS JOEL LISLER AND BURT MILLING, ARE IN THIS COUNTRY, "TO DETERMINE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE THREAT POSED TO SOUTH AFRICA BY INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES."

3. SOUTH AFRICANS AND NAMIBIANS, PLUS FORMER RHODESIANS, ANGULANS AND MOZAMBIANS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF THIS MATTER FOR MANY YEARS, MAY WELL BE SURPRISED THAT AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME IT STILL REMAINS NECESSARY FOR SUCH ADDITIONAL ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION. BUT WE SHOULD WELCOME THESE TWO INVESTIGATORS AND PROVIDE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE AT EVERY LEVEL. BECAUSE THIS PARTICULAR SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE IS LED BY A MOST REMARKABLE MAN, ONE THE RUSSIANS LONG AGO LEARNT TO FEAR AND DETEST.

4. HE IS SENATOR JEREMIAH A. DENTON, JR. OF ALABAMA, A MAN WHO RETIRED FROM THE US NAVY WITH ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED RECORDS EVER EARNED BY AN AMERICAN OFFICER. NOT ONLY IS HE REGARDED BY MOST AMERICANS AS ONE OF THE CERTIFIED HEROES OF OUR TIME, BUT HE IS ALSO CERTAINLY NO AMATEUR IN THIS PARTICULAR BALL GAME. A GRADUATE OF THE US NAVAL ACADEMY AT ANNAPOLIS, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN VIETNAM IN 1964. COMMANDER JERRY DENTON WAS LEADING A GROUP OF 24 AIRCRAFT FLYING FROM THE USS INDEPENDENCE WHEN HE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER NORTH VIETNAM IN JULY, 1965.

WOUNDED AND CAPTURED, DENTON ENDURED SEVEN YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS OF COMMUNIST BRUTALITY, STARVATION AND TORTURE. DETERMINED TO RESIST, HE LED AND INSPIRED OTHER AMERICAN POWS TO WITHSTAND BRAIN-WASHING AND COLLABORATION. WHEN, FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES,

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HIS CAPTORS BROUGHT HIM BEFORE TV CAMERAS, HE BLINKED WITH HIS EYES THE WORD T-O-R-T-U-R-E- IN MORSE CODE. DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT, HE WAS PROMOTED TWICE, TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN, THEN REAR-ADMIRAL. ADMIRAL DENTON'S MANY HONOURS AND DECORATIONS INCLUDE THE NAVY CROSS, THE DEFENCE DISTINGUISHED MEDAL, THE NAVY DISTINGUISHED MEDAL, THREE SILVER STARS, SIX BRONZE STARS AND TWO PURPLE HEARTS.

5. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE COMMENT WHEN MR. REAGAN ESTABLISHED THE DENTON COMMITTEE, WITH ITS MANDATE TO INVESTIGATE TERRORISM, MUTINY AND ESPIONAGE. IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, THE TEXT OF WHICH HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CITIZEN, SENATOR DENTON SAID THAT, SINCE TAKING OVER HIS NEW TASK, HE HAD FOUND A GREAT WEAKNESS IN THE US APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. "VERY FEW HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT TERRORISM WITH RESPECT TO ITS TRAINING, ITS CIRCUITRY FROM THE POINT OF ORIGIN TO THE PLACE OF COMMISSION OF TERRORIST ACTIONS, OR OF ITS CAPITALISATION." ASKED WHAT HE SAW AS THE AREA OF PRIME IMPORTANCE IN INVESTIGATING TERRORISM, HE SAID: "TO ME, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT IS HOW TERRORISM IMPACTS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF CIVILISATION IN THE WORLD, HOW IT

THREATENS THE SURVIVAL OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AS REMAIN TO US." ASKED WHY REVOLUTIONARIES USE TERRORISM TO TAKE POWER BY STORM, HE REPLIED: "ITS PURPOSE IS TO EXACERBATE SOCIAL TENSIONS, TO SHOW THE GOVERNMENT AS AN IMPOTENT FORCE THAT IS INCAPABLE OF MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER, TO MAKE PEOPLE LOSE CONFIDENCE, TO FORCE THE TARGET GOVERNMENT INTO REPRESSIVE MEASURES IN RESPONSE."

ANY RESTRICTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS INVARIABLY BRINGS DOWN THE WRATH OF THE MEDIA AND CIVIL LIBERTARIANS. "THIS MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO PUT DOWN TERRORISM."

6. ON THIS ASPECT, SENATOR DENTON URGED THAT THINKING PEOPLE READ AND STUDY THE CO-AUTHORED DE BURCHGRAVE-

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ROBERT MOSS BOOK, "THE SPIKE". THIS SHOWS "THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH YOUNG JOURNALISTS, MANY OF THEM BURNING WITH IDEALISTIC COMMITMENT TO REFORM SOCIETY, BECAME CONVINCED THAT VIETNAM WAS A SINK OF CORRUPTION THAT WOULD BE 'REFORMED' BY THE COMMUNISTS. 'LATER, SOME OF THE MORE PERCEPTIVE DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD BEEN MISLED, EVEN DUPED. BUT, BY THEN, IRREVOCABLE DAMAGE TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AND TO THE WESTERN CAUSE HAD BEEN DONE.'" ASKED WHY SO MANY MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS GET INVOLVED ON THE SIDE OF REVOLUTIONARY TERRORISTS, DENTON SAID: "I AM FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF THE CATHOLIC HIERARCHY. TAKING THEM INDIVIDUALLY, THE LEADERS OF THE US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE AND THE US CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS MEAN WELL. 'THE PROBLEM, AS I SEE IT, LIES NOT IN THEIR INTEGRITY, BUT IN THE FACT THAT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ECONOMICS, REAL POLITICS OR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THEY ARE HEAVILY EXPOSED TO THEOLOGY, AND ALAS, SOCIOLOGY. 'THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN OUT IN THE SUN TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL WORLD, SO THEY DEAL WITH INFINITELY DIFFICULT, DANGEROUS SITUATIONS AS IF THEY WERE IMAGINARY SITUATIONS OF MONASTIC THEORY."

7. WHY IS IT THAT SO MANY NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND REPORTERS APPEAR TOTALLY UNINTERESTED IN REPORTING ON THE CLANDESTINE TACTICS, PLANS AND OPERATIONS OF THE USSR, ITS SATELLITES AND CLIENT STATES, EVEN THOUGH THEIR OWN PERSONAL FREEDOMS MAY BE THREATENED? "YES, THAT IS SOMETHING I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD. SOME OF THESE PEOPLE SAY TO ME: 'ALL YOU ARE INTERESTED IN IS THE USSR AND ITS VARIOUS ALLIES. WHY ARE YOU PICKING ON SUCH A NARROW FIELD?' 'NARROW? HOW IS IT 'NARROW' TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE STRATEGY, TACTICS AND MANOEUVRES OF A TOTALITARIAN REGIME, DEDICATED TO OUR OWN EXTINCTION, THAT HAS THE LARGEST WAR MACHINE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD AND IS WORKING AS HARD AS IT CAN TO EXPAND IT FURTHER. 'IT IS NOT 'NARROW' TO SHOW CONCERN ABOUT AN ELITE PARTY THAT RULES AN EMPIRE STRETCHING FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO ASIA, WHICH HAS CONTINUALLY DEMONSTRATED ITS AGGRESSIVE NATURE BY SETTING UP PUPPET STATES FROM VIETNAM, LAOS

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